

Endangered Species Act by preventing the Corps of Engineers from funding reasonable and much-needed changes to the operating manual for the Missouri River. The Corps and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are entering a critical phase in their Section 7 consultation on the effects of reservoir project operations. This provision could prevent the Corps from carrying out a necessary element of any reasonable and prudent alternative to avoid jeopardizing the continued existence of the endangered least tern and pallid sturgeon, and the threatened piping plover.

In addition to the objectionable restriction placed upon the Corps of Engineers, the bill fails to provide funding for the California-Bay Delta initiative. This decision could significantly hamper ongoing Federal and State efforts to restore this ecosystem, protect the drinking water of 22 million Californians, and enhance water supply and reliability for over 7 million acres of highly productive farmland and growing urban areas across California. The \$60 million budget request, all of which would be used to support activities that can be carried out using existing authorities, is the minimum necessary to ensure adequate Federal participation in these initiatives, which are essential to reducing existing conflicts among water users in California. This funding should be provided without legislative restrictions undermining key environmental statutes or disrupting the balanced approach to meeting the needs of water users and the environment that has been carefully developed through almost 6 years of work with the State of California and interested stakeholders.

The bill also fails to provide sufficient funding necessary to restore endangered salmon in the Pacific Northwest, which would interfere with the Corps of Engineers' ability to comply with the Endangered Species Act, and provides no funds to start the new construction project requested for the Florida Everglades. The bill also fails to fund the Challenge 21 program for environmentally friendly flood damage reduction projects, the program to modernize Corps recreation facilities, and construction of an emergency outlet at Devil's Lake. In addition, it does not fully support efforts to re-

search and develop nonpolluting, domestic sources of energy through solar and renewable technologies that are vital to America's energy security.

Finally, the bill provides nearly \$700 million for over 300 unrequested projects, including: nearly 80 unrequested projects totaling more than \$330 million for the Department of Energy; nearly 240 unrequested projects totaling over \$300 million for the Corps of Engineers; and, more than 10 unrequested projects totaling in excess of \$10 million for the Bureau of Reclamation. For example, more than 80 unrequested Corps of Engineers construction projects included in the bill would have a long-term cost of nearly \$2.7 billion. These unrequested projects and earmarks come at the expense of other initiatives important to taxpaying Americans.

The American people deserve Government spending based upon a balanced approach that maintains fiscal discipline, eliminates the national debt, extends the solvency of Social Security and Medicare, provides for an appropriately sized tax cut, establishes a new voluntary Medicare prescription drug benefit in the context of broader reforms, expands health care coverage to more families, and funds critical investments for our future. I urge the Congress to work expeditiously to develop a bill that addresses the needs of the Nation.

William J. Clinton

The White House,
October 7, 2000.

**Telephone Remarks to a Reception
for Representative Julia Carson**

October 7, 2000

Well, first of all, I want to thank Jeff for hosting this event tonight and for the many years of friendship I've enjoyed with him. I've been told that Evan and Susan Bayh are there and Frank and Judy O'Bannon and your other State officials. I heard you talking about Mayor Peterson. And Joe Andrew—I want to say again what I said this afternoon—he's really done Indiana proud here at the DNC. I'm really proud of him.

If you've been following the news today, you know why I couldn't come. I've been up for virtually 2 days now trying to stop the violence in the Middle East and get the peace process back on track. It's a difficult situation. We're down to all the hard issues now, and it's just something I couldn't leave. I can't get away from the phone because of what's going on there and in the U.N. and in other countries. I have to be available here 100 percent of the time.

I'm really, really sorry to miss this because I had looked forward to coming back to Indiana, and I wanted to do anything I could to help Julia Carson. She's one of my favorite people in American politics. She's a real treasure for you. She's done a great job, and she is so effective.

You know, she's got a style that reminds me of all these big, white country judges I used to deal with in Arkansas. *[Laughter]* She kind of eases up to you and talks to you, and then, before you know it, your billfold is gone. *[Laughter]* We have learned in the White House just to go on and give her what she wants the first time she asks, because we know we're going to give in sooner or later. *[Laughter]*

Seriously, she's acquired an unusual amount of influence here in a short time because she is so good at what she does and because everybody likes and respects her, and I'm at the head of that list. So I'm very grateful to you for helping her.

The only other thing I'd like to say tonight is that perhaps more than anyone in America, after these last 8 years, I know how important every Senate seat, every House seat is, and I know how important this election is. The resurgence of the Democratic Party in Indiana is perhaps the best example anywhere in America of what can happen if you take good Democratic values and common sense and get things done and produce results. And that's what we've tried to do. I just hope that all of you will take every opportunity you can between now and the election to remind people of where we were 8 years ago and where we are now and why we ought to keep changing in the same direction and not turn around and go back.

The consequences of this election are very profound, and sometimes I get a little con-

cerned that people may not believe that because times are so good. But it's often more difficult to make a good decision in good times than it is in hard times. We have a clear difference here between the two parties, between the candidates for Congress and for the Senate and certainly for the White House.

We've worked hard nationally to do what Evan Bayh and Frank O'Bannon have done in Indiana, to prove that you can be fiscally responsible, balance your budgets, and still take care of people. And that is, in some ways, maybe the biggest difference between the Democratic and Republican approaches today. If Al Gore's plan is adopted, tax cuts will be smaller, and some of you will get less money, but we'll pay the debt off, and interest rates will be lower. And over the next 10 years, the estimates are that, under his plan, interest rates will be a percent lower, and that's \$390 billion in home mortgages, \$30 billion in lower car loans, \$15 billion in lower student loans, lower credit card payments, lower business loans, more jobs, higher incomes, and a better stock market. It's not very complicated.

You simply cannot get this country back into deficit, which is what would happen if the Republican plans for the huge tax cut, the privatization of Social Security, and their spending promises go into effect. We'll be right back where we were, and we can't afford to do it. It's a big difference.

And I just want to ask all of you to make sure that people understand that the choice is real and the consequences will be real, too. And I think the choice is clear. We have a different economic policy, a different health care policy, a different education policy, a different environmental policy, and a different foreign policy. And I think the results speak for themselves.

You can cite Indiana as an example, and you can cite the record of our administration in the last 8 years. Nothing I have done, however, would have been possible without people in Congress like Senator Bayh and Representative Carson. I am just profoundly grateful.

And I want to say a special word of thanks because it's still hard for a Democrat running for national office in Indiana. And for those

of you who stood up for me, you deserve some sort of Purple Heart, and I want to thank you for that, as well. [*Laughter*]

But now you have something you didn't have so much of—you didn't have any of in '92 and not so much of in '96. You have evidence. Some of our Republican friends, I've got to hand it to them. When it comes to the budget or how we ought to pay for prescription drugs, evidence doesn't faze them. They don't care about the evidence. They just know what they think.

But most people, I think, in Indiana and the States bordering Indiana—a lot of you have friends there, in States that could go either way—really care about whether what we're doing is consistent with our values and will actually work. That's one of the reasons that I wanted so badly to be there for Julia today, because she works and she gets things done. Again, I just can't thank you enough for helping her.

And thank you, Jeff, for indirectly having me in your home. I hope I can have a raincheck. I've been trying to visit you for a lot longer than I've been President. So maybe some day we'll get it done.

Thank you all very, very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:02 p.m. from the Residence at the White House to the reception at a private residence in Indianapolis, IN. In his remarks, he referred to reception host Jeffrey Smulyan; Gov. Frank O'Bannon of Indiana and his wife, Judy; Senator Bayh's wife, Susan; Mayor Bart Peterson of Indianapolis, IN; and Joseph J. Andrew, national chair, Democratic National Committee. Representative Carson is a candidate for reelection in Indiana's 10th Congressional District.

Telephone Remarks to a Reception for Hillary Clinton

October 7, 2000

The President. Well, I'm just sorry I'm not there. I've looked forward to coming to visit you in Indiana for a long time. I want to begin just by thanking you and Mel for being such good friends to Hillary and me. I've been with you in Colorado and Florida, and I really wanted to come up there and see you.

And I want to thank Cindy and Paul for hosting this tonight. And I want to thank all the people who are there to help Hillary. I really—as I said, I looked forward to being there. But as I told Bren a few hours ago, I've been up almost without sleep for 2 days trying to deal with the situation in the Middle East. It's quite violent, and it presents a real threat to the peace process that everybody there has worked for, for 7½ years now. I just couldn't leave the telephone and my responsibilities here. I hope you'll forgive me for not being there with you.

Bren Simon. Well, we certainly understand. We do want you to know that Senator Evan Bayh and Susan are with us tonight, and they send their best regards to you.

The President. I'm just trying to get another vote for Evan up there in the Senate. [*Laughter*] He doesn't need a lot of help, but he could use all the help he can get. I want to say to all of you there, Evan and Susan have been friends of Hillary's and mine for a long time, since Evan knocked me out as being the youngest Governor in America. We like them. We respect them. We care for them, and I'm just thrilled that they've done as well as they have for Indiana and for the United States in Washington. Evan has really, really had an impact on the Senate, and you should be very proud of him.

The only other thing I want to say is that I know how difficult it is to raise funds for a candidate from another State a long way away, even somebody who is the First Lady. But this is really a worthy cause. The other side has raised, I think, between the two candidates that have run against Hillary, a total of \$50 million. So we've had to work real hard and get support from our friends around the country.

She has done so well. She's got a big debate tomorrow morning, and keep your fingers crossed for her. I must say, I'm absolutely convinced, based on over 30 years of working in politics and seeing people in public life, that she will be one of the great United States Senators of the last several years, if we can just get through these next 4 or 5 months. And I think all of you will be very proud that you came there and helped her win. I just can't tell you how grateful I am.